APR 0 6 2006

Appln. No. 09/696,114 Amendment dated April 6, 2006 Reply to Office Action of January 4, 2006

Attorney Docket No. 00745/LH

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

: Toru KOBAYASHI et al. Applicant

: 09/696,114 Serial No.

: October 25, 2000 Filed

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Mail Stop RCE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

SIR:

This is responsive to the Final Office Action dated January 4, 2006, the term for response to which is extended by one (1) month by Petition filed concurrently herewith to May 4, 2006, and supplemental to the Amendment filed March 28, 2006.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 17 of this paper.

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION TO NO. 571-273-8300

TOTAL PAGES: 18

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents Office on the date noted below.

Mari vn Sturts

Dated: April 6, 2006

In the event that this Paper is late filed, and the necessary petition for extension of time is not filed concurrently herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by check attached hereto, authorization to charge the extension fee to